ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE  
Humanities Division  
DAN 161 – Modern Interpretive Dance I  
Course Outline

Course Number & Name: DAN 161 Modern Interpretive Dance I  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Contact Hours: 3.0  
Lecture: 3.0  
Lab: N/A  
Other: N/A  
Prerequisites: None  
Co-requisites: None  
Concurrent Courses: None  
Course Outline Revision Date: Fall 2010

Course Description: Introduces the art and practice of Modern Interpretive Dance; includes technical practice, exploration of the elements of dance, the history of dance, and creative activities leading to the appreciation of dance performance and the development of a beginning technical vocabulary. This course is for students with no dance training.

Course Goals: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. perform basic modern interpretive dance skills with effective technique;
2. evaluate various components of dance; and
3. utilize effective oral, written, research, and critical thinking skills to discuss dance technique, modern dance pioneers, and appreciation of the art of dance.

Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs): Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Perform basic modern interpretive dance skills with effective technique:
   1.1 demonstrate sensitivity to tempo, rhythm, and the dynamics of musical accompaniment;
   1.2 actively participate in movement improvisation;
   1.3 participate in a variety of creative activities; and
   1.4 apply basic choreographic methods to compose dance

2. Evaluate various components of dance:
   2.1 evaluate one’s own agility, balance, strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination, and movement efficiency;
   2.2 utilize kinesthetic perception in order to self-evaluate and self-correct;
   2.3 demonstrate self-awareness and awareness of others when performing and engaging in group activities; and
   2.4 articulate appropriate criteria for making aesthetic judgments about dance
Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs) (continued):

3. Utilize effective oral, written, research, and critical thinking skills to discuss dance technique, modern dance pioneers, and appreciation of the art of dance:
   
   3.1 discuss the relationship of dance to other arts and disciplines;
   3.2 effectively utilize the library and internet resources for research;
   3.3 differentiate the elements of choreographic style that distinguish the pioneers of Modern Dance and contemporary choreographers;
   3.4 discuss dance as a vehicle for expressing cultural, historical, political and social issues;
   3.5 analyze the relationship between ethics/values and contemporary dance;
   3.6 discuss the impact of technology on dance; and
   3.7 describe several dance-related careers

Methods of Instruction: Instruction will consist of any appropriate combination of the following:

1. Elements of Modern Interpretive Dance technique: floor work, standing, center combinations, and locomotor sequences
2. Elements of movement: space, time, and energy
3. Dance research
4. Lecture/discussion on cultural/historical roots of Modern Interpretive Dance from the pioneers to post-moderns and current artists
5. Dance aesthetics: defining dance, dance as an art form, aesthetics as a process and product of culture
6. Creative experiences in improvisations and composition
7. Elements and evaluation of dance performance
8. Lecture/discussion on careers in dance

Outcomes Assessment: Rubrics are used to assess class participation and performances for the presence and mastery of the course objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

Course Requirements: All students are required to:

1. Attend class and actively participate in dance technique, creative activities, and collaborative projects as assigned.
2. Attend live performances and submit written responses with written annotated bibliographies as assigned.
3. Participate in performance(s).
4. Complete all movement evaluations (midterm and final) as scheduled.
**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Components</th>
<th>% of final course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Participation</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students must be present in this dance class, to benefit from the guidance of the instructor and the interaction of a creative environment. Students will be instructed in dance technique and participate in creative activities and projects, which are designed to enhance student mastery of course objectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm Solo and Group Performance</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>The midterm performances will provide evidence of the level of student mastery of various course objectives and should indicate synthesis of course content covered in the first half of the semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Solo and Group Performance</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>The final performances will provide evidence of the level of student mastery of various course objectives and should indicate increased synthesis of course content.</td>
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**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
- cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
- interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
- fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.
**Course Content Outline:** There is no text for this course. Depending upon the ability and talent of the students in the class, the instructor will set a weekly schedule for the course.